

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV, RH, SF, XJ
SUBJECT: CSU CHAIRMAN STRAUSS SCORES WESTERN POLICY
IN NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA

1. INTRO AND SUMMARY. FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS, CHAIRMAN OF BAVARIA'S CHRISTIAN SOCIAL UNION, ISSUES A CASSANDRA CRY FOR ALTERNATIVE WESTERN POLICY TOWARD NAMIBIA AND ZIMBABWE/RHODESIA IN LENGTHY ARTICLE IN CURRENT ISSUE OF CSU ORGAN, BAYERNKURIER. IN NAMIBIA, STRAUSS PERCEIVES MAIN PROBLEM AS SWAPO'S AIM OF TRANSFORMING AREA, WITH MOSCOW'S BACKING, INTO COERCIVE SOCIALIST STATE ON MODEL OF ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE. HE WANTS WEST TO TELL SWAPO IT HAS NO REPEAT NO CHANCE OF OBTAINING CONCESSIONS WHICH GO BEYOND THOSE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA NOW PREPARED TO MAKE. IN ZIMBABWE/RHODESIA (Z/R), STRAUSS PLEADS FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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WESTERN SUPPORT OF INTERNAL SETTLEMENT REACHED BY SMITH, MUZOREWA, SITHOLE AND CHIRAU. END SUMMARY.

2. IN ARTICLE ENTITLED "STRUCK BLIND OR MURDERED FREEDOM," STRAUSS IMPLORES THE WEST, ESPECIALLY THE US, TO DEMONSTRATE THE MORAL COURAGE REQUIRED TO SUPPORT ACTIVELY ARRANGEMENTS IN NAMIBIA AND Z/R WHICH WOULD

PROMOTE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PROGRESS AND ASSURE RACIAL HARMONY WHILE KEEPING SOVIET INFLUENCE OUT OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. STRAUSS' ANALYSIS OF SITUATION AND PRESCRIPTIONS FOR ACTION ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW.

3. SITUATION IN NAMIBIA. STRAUSS OBSERVES THAT NAMIBIA'S WEALTH OF NATURAL RESOURCES WOULD ENABLE IT TO SUPPORT A CONSIDERABLY LARGER POPULATION AND THAT AN INDEPENDENT AND STABLE NAMIBIA WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT REQUIRE DEVELOPMENT AID BUT RATHER CREDITS AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT. SWAPO, STRAUSS MAINTAINS, IS ARMED AND DIRECTED BY MOSCOW AND SERVES LATTER'S GREAT-POWER INTERESTS. GOAL OF SWAPO AND MOSCOW IS ACQUISITION BY SWAPO OF ABSOLUTE POWER IN ORDER TO TRANSFORM COUNTRY INTO A COERCIVE SOCIALIST STATE ON MODEL OF ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE. SWAPO IS NOT REPEAT NOT INTERESTED IN GENERAL ELECTION ON BASIS OF EQUAL SUFFRAGE OR IN ACCEPTING WHITE MINORITY AS A PARTNER. (STRAUSS ALSO TAKES OPPORTUNITY TO CRITICIZE THE FRG FOR THE RED CARPET TREATMENT IT HAS ALLEGEDLY GIVEN TO SWAPO LEADERS.)

4. WESTERN ACTION IN NAMIBIA. STRAUSS CLAIMS THAT SOUTHERN AFRICANS HAVE AGREED TO ACCEPT FOLLOWING FIVE-POINT PROGRAM LEADING TO NAMIBIA'S INDEPENDENCE:
(A) ONE MAN, ONE VOTE.
(B) MAJORITY RULE IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES
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(C) END TO SPECIAL PRIVILEGES FOR WHITES.
(D) PARTICIPATION IN GENERAL ELECTION BY ALL GROUPS, INCLUDING SWAPO, PROVIDED IT RENOUNCES TERRORISM, AND
(E) REDUCTION OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOP PRESENCE TO 1,400.
STRAUSS URGES WEST TO BACK THIS PROGRAM WITHOUT FURTHER CONCESSIONS TO SWAPO IN ORDER TO PREVENT NAMIBIA FROM BECOMING A SECOND VIET NAM OR ANGOLA.

5. Z/R. ADMITTING PUBLICLY FOR FIRST TIME THAT HE PLAYED BEHIND-THE-SCENES ROLE IN PROMOTING SO-CALLED "INTERNAL SOLUTION" IN RHODESIA, STRAUSS URGES WEST TO GIVE THIS SOLUTION A CHANCE. HE CLAIMS THAT THE FIVE FRONT STATES ARE ECONOMICALLY BANKRUPT AND WILL REMAIN THAT WAY DESPITE THE LARGE AMOUNT OF DEVELOPMENT AID THEY RECEIVE. THEIR CHIEF INTEREST IN Z/R IS TO USE LATTER'S NATURAL RESOURCES TO OVERCOME THEIR OWN ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. STRAUSS CRITICIZES UN AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S ALLEGED STATEMENT THAT US WOULD CONSIDER SERIOUSLY ARMS REQUESTS FROM FRONT STATES PROVIDED THAT THESE ARMS WOULD NOT BE TRANSFERRED TO TERRORISTS. STRAUSS SUSPECTS THAT THE FRONT STATES WOULD, IN FACT, TRANSFER SUCH ARMS TO TERRORISTS, PROMISES TO US NOTWITHSTANDING.

6. COMMENT. STRAUSS RETURNED RECENTLY FROM VISIT TO SOUTHERN AFRICA. HE HAS BEEN PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN SOUTHERN AFRICAN AFFAIRS FOR SEVERAL YEARS, AND IS ACQUAINTED WITH A NUMBER OF THE KEY POLITICAL FIGURES IN THIS AREA. STRAUSS IS CONSCIOUSLY PLAYING A CASSANDRA-LIKE ROLE BECAUSE HE CLAIMS TO BE DEEPLY CONVINCED THAT THE EFFECT OF PRESENT US, UK AND FRG POLICIES TOWARD SOUTHERN AFRICA WILL SERVE NEITHER THE VITAL INTERESTS OF THE WEST NOR THOSE OF THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF SOUTHERN AFRICANS -- BLACK, COLORED AND WHITE. BETTS

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